

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

January 22, 2002
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall, Deputy Mayor Degginger, Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Lee, Mosher, and Noble

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Degginger opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m. and announced recess to executive session for approximately one hour to discuss two items of potential litigation and one item of pending litigation.

The study session resumed at 7:05 p.m. with Mayor Marshall presiding.

2. Study Session

(a) Report on the findings of the 2001-2002 Human Services Needs Update

Patrick Foran, Parks and Community Services Director, said the Human Services Needs Update is conducted every two years to guide the Human Services Commission in developing its funding recommendations to the City Council for the allocation of Human Services Fund monies and Community Development Block Grant funds. He introduced Michelle Kline, Chair of the Human Services Commission, and Berta Seltzer, a Commission member.

Alex O'Reilly, Human Services Planner, said information is gathered from a variety of sources including: 1) surveys of citizens, providers, faith-based organizations, and businesses, 2) focus groups, 3) key informant interviews with planners, administrators, and policymakers, 4) discussions with City staff, and 5) the review of reports, studies, and web sites. Ms. O'Reilly discussed how human services funding helps the community by preventing eviction and foreclosure, providing child care so parents can work, helping people to learn English as a second language, and providing free or reduced cost dental care.

Ms. O'Reilly reviewed four main trends in local human services needs:

1. More consumers of human services are employed. East King County participants in welfare-to-work programs earned an average of \$9.42 per hour in 2001, compared to a “living wage” of \$16.86 per hour. This points to the need for affordable housing, job training, and affordable child care.
2. An increasing number of senior citizens are requesting assistance for food, prescriptions, reduced utility rates, home health care, elder day care, and transportation.
3. East King County is becoming increasingly diverse in terms of race and ethnicity. The 2000 census indicates 25 percent of residents are non-Caucasian. Needs include child care, counseling, health care, legal assistance, and vocational and English-as-a-second language (ESL) training.
4. Providers and City staff are assisting citizens with more complex problems requiring more time and resources.

Ms. O'Reilly said phone surveys indicate that affordable housing has been the top community problem since 1995. Anxiety, stress, and/or depression are the second highest reported problems. Two additional key issues are child care availability and affordability and domestic violence. Bellevue Police report a 60 percent increase in domestic violence calls since 1997.

Ms. O'Reilly reviewed the challenges for human services:

- Preserving infrastructure despite reductions from multiple funding sources (County, State).
- A decline in donor contributions.
- General economic uncertainty due to the recession.
- Perception that the Eastside has fewer human services needs than other parts of the county.

Ms. O'Reilly noted the human services needs surveys were completed prior to September 11 and the recent downturn in the economy. The passage of Initiative 722 contributes to additional funding shortfalls, particularly in the area of human services. The Human Services Commission will invite proposals from the community beginning in the spring and present recommendations for 2003-2004 funding to the Council next fall.

Mr. Mosher requested information regarding local immigration trends in future needs surveys, and Mrs. Marshall concurred that this would be helpful information for the Council.

Mr. Noble commented that human services needs are increasing while state and regional funding is decreasing. He is concerned about the future impacts of this trend.

Mr. Lee said he would be interested in staff's recommendations for addressing the human services funding shortfall. He questioned the survey population and specifically the demographics of those citing affordable housing as a top problem. In response to Mr. Lee, Ms. O'Reilly said the phone survey was a random digit survey of 416 residents. Of these, 13 participants required a foreign language interpreter. Ms. O'Reilly said a broad base of respondents reported affordable housing as a primary concern.

Mayor Marshall thanked Ms. O'Reilly and the Human Services Commission for their hard work.

(b) Community Demographics Update

Planning Director Dan Stroh reviewed community demographic highlights of the 2000 census. Bellevue experienced a 26 percent growth in population from 1990 to 2000, with 40 percent of the increase attributed to geographic annexations and 60 percent attributed to actual population growth. This compares to a population increase of 18 percent during the 1980s.

Mr. Stroh displayed maps illustrating the following for all areas of the city: percent change in population, percent of population under 18 years of age, percent of population over age 65, percent of Hispanic population, and percent of Asian population. The areas south of downtown and south of I-90 experienced the most growth. East Bellevue's population decreased during the 1990s due to a smaller average household size. The percentage of the population under age 18 was the same in 2000 as in 1990 at 21.1 percent. The number of senior citizens continues to increase and they now represent 13.4 percent of the city's population, compared to 10.5 percent of the overall King County population. Mr. Stroh said 22 percent of Bellevue households include a senior citizen. Approximately 5.3 percent of Bellevue residents are Hispanic, which is consistent with the percentages for Seattle and King County. Bellevue's Asian and Pacific Islander population increased from 10 percent in 1990 to 17.9 percent in 2000. In closing, Mr. Stroh displayed a Bellevue School District map indicating the clustering of schools in East Bellevue with higher than average poverty rates.

Mr. Stroh said this is the first in a series of planned briefings to the Council regarding the 2000 census. Mayor Marshall said the Council looks forward to hearing more information as it is compiled by staff.

3. Discussion

- (a) Application of Barber 37th Street Associates to amend current zoning to expand the list of allowable uses on a site (currently restricted by Ordinance No. 2225) located at 15350 SE 37th Street. The existing Community Business zoning will not change. (File No. LQ 01-108536)

Land Use Director Carol Helland described the application of Barber 37th Street Associates to amend the current zoning for a site at 15350 SE 37th Street and thereby expand the list of allowable uses on the site to include financial and medical services. In 1976, the site was rezoned from B-N, now called Neighborhood Business, to B-1, now called Community Business. Conditions imposed by a concomitant agreement at that time restricted uses to nine categories. The applicant requests an amendment to allow financial and medical uses, which are permitted under the current Community Business designation. No public testimony was offered at a public hearing concerning this application.

Responding to Mr. Lee, Ms. Helland said she reviewed the minutes of the Planning Commission's discussion regarding the 1976 concomitant agreement. At that time, the Commission wanted to limit the draw of customers from other communities and therefore chose to restrict uses to a narrower list of neighborhood uses. She feels the proposed amendment is consistent with this direction.

- (b) Application of Rory and Alice Dees requesting approval for a rezone of a 2.47-acre parcel at 16605 SE Cougar Mountain Way from R-1 to R-1.8. (File No. 01-100678 LQ)

Ms. Helland described the application of Rory and Alice Dees requesting approval for the rezone of a 2.47-acre parcel at 16605 SE Cougar Mountain Way from R-1 to R-1.8 (1.8 units per acre). The current zoning allows three single-family lots. The new zoning would allow five lots, but due to environmental sensitivities only four lots are possible.

Responding to Dr. Davidson, Ms. Helland said this is one of a few lots identified in the Lakemont Land Use Study as appropriate candidates for R-1.8 zoning. Council action on the application is scheduled for February 4.

4. Council Business [Regular Session Agenda Item 6]

With time remaining in the session, Mayor Marshall asked Councilmembers to provide their reports. Mr. Noble attended meetings of the Eastside Transportation Partnership (ETP) and the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Transportation Policy Board. He announced that Mayor Marshall is the new ETP Chair.

Dr. Davidson attended the Women's Transportation Seminar, which featured Senator Patty Murray as a guest speaker. He attended a portion of a seminar sponsored by the U.S. Corps of Engineers regarding the passage of fish through Lake Washington, a water purveyors meeting, and the Martin Luther King Day celebration at Crossroads Shopping Center.

Deputy Mayor Degginger reported that he and Dr. Davidson attended a meeting of the Cascade Water Alliance. Mr. Degginger attended meetings of the Access Downtown Citizen Advisory Committee and the I-405 Executive Committee.

At 7:59 p.m., Mayor Marshall declared recess to the regular session.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

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